

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00

DRC-01 /166 W

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R 031100Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3866

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2922

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: PRESENT STATUS OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONSHIP

REF: CAIRO 2894 (NOTAL); TRIPOLI 1262 (NOTAL)

1. OCTOBER 3 CAIRO PRESS REPORTS, WITH PHOTOS, THAT JALLUD SAW SADAT ON OCTOBER 2. ON SAME DAY JALLUD REPORTEDLY ALSO HEADED LIBYAN SIDE AT MEETING OF LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL (HPC), AND APPEARED IN ALEXANDRIA AT LIBYAN STUDENTS' "UNIONIST REVOLUTIONARY THOUGHTS SEMINAR."

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2. IN PAST FEW DAYS, CAIRO PRESS HAS PLAYED UP IMPORTANCE OF FIRST MEETING OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLYFWHICH, IN FACT, PRODUCED NOTHING MORE THAN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF ITS OWN INTERNAL REGULATIONS, FORMATION OF COMMITTEES, AND UNDERWHELMING DECISION THAT IT SHOULD BE JOINTLY HEADED BY AN EGYPTIAN AND A LIBYAN. PRESS HAS ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF HPC MEETING TO LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP.

3. COMMENT: THE PATTERN THAT SEEMS TO BE EMERGING IS THAT LARG AND GOE HAVE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF MUTUAL INTERESTS WHICH MAY BE PROFITABLY DISCUSSED AS LONG AS (A) QADHAAFI IS NOT INJECTED INTO THE PICTURE; AND (B) "MERGER" IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS. DESPITE FACT THAT QADHAAFI WAS PRIMAL FORCE BEHIND IDEA OF LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN UNITY, HE HAS BECOME IN EGYPTIAN EYES SEVERE IRRITANT TO EVEN NORMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. HE HAS, IN A SENSE, ELICITED NEGATIVE PAVLOVIAN REACTION IN EGYPT: EVEN THE THOUGHT OF QADHAAFI VISITING CAIRO FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE MAKES HACKLES RISE ON COLLECTIVE NECK OF GOE. JALLUD, HOWEVER, IS THE KIND OF INDIVIDUAL WHOM EGYPTIANS CAN DEAL WITH ON A RATIONAL BASIS, AND IT MAY BE THAT EGYPTIANS ARE IN PROCESS OF PROMOTING JALLUD AS SUCCESSOR TO QADHAAFI. IN THIS RESPECT, SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD NOT BE MISSED THAT JALLUD WAS RECEIVED BY SADAT WHILE QADHAAFI WAS NOT AND APPEARS TO HAVE ACCESS IN EGYPT WHERE QADHAAFI DOES NOT.

4. AS TRIPOLI SUGGESTS IN REFTEL, EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN UNIONR IDEA IS MORE OBVIOUSLY MORIBUND THAN IT HAS SEEMED SINCE LAST AUGUST. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT GOOD REASONS FOR NORMAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES EXISTS BELOW THE POLICY LEVEL. TECHNICAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS LINKING OF ELECTRIC POWER GRIDS, ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT DESALINIZATION PLANT, DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN BOTH STATES BY USE OF LIBYAN MONEY AND EGYPTIAN EXPERTISE ARE EXAMPLES WHERE COOPERATION IN CONTINUING PROFITABLY FOR EACH COUNTRY AND AT A LOSS TO NEITHER. AS LONG AS BROAD POLITICAL IMPERATIVES, SUCH AS IDEA OF MERGER, DO NOT INTERFERE, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE REASON FOR SUCH A RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE.

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SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Draft Date:** 03 OCT 1973  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, LY, EG  
**To:** STATE  
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